

STUDENTS' AMBLESIDE EASTER CONFERENCE.

It has been proposed, and the idea has been hailed with acclamation, that a regular Conference of Students shall be held next Easter at Ambleside. A return to our old haunts is, we have always felt, the surest way to renew our inspirations and our aspirations, and there are many students who habitually make a few days' pilgrimage in the Easter holidays. Students often feel that they need an opportunity of discussing the developments of their work or the difficulties of their lives, and greatly as we value and esteem the Annual London Conference, it is not the place in which to discuss our own more private matters. Owing to Miss Mason's great kindness it will be possible to use Scale Howe as our meeting ground, though of course hospitality could not be offered to a large and indefinite number, and all students will readily understand that they will have to find their own board and lodging.

It is proposed that the Conference should extend over a week, including the last three days of the present students' holidays and the first three days of the House of Education term—that will be probably from Monday, April 20th, to Saturday, April 25th. It is hoped by announcing the date thus early that many students may be enabled to make such especial holiday arrangements as will permit of their being present. Already some dozen or more have intimated their intention to come if they "have to tramp barefoot all the way."

It is proposed to devote the mornings of the first three days to the reading of papers on special subjects, to criticism lessons given in the well-remembered way, and to discussions of concrete problems. A tentative programme will be found further on. The afternoons are to be left free for the making of expeditions and the re-visiting of familiar spots, while the evenings are to be devoted to "high jinks" in the good old

way. Miss Mason most kindly has said that though we should not dream of laying extra burdens upon the staff, we may for the last three days be ranked as students, and may attend their lectures and have their great advantages, which, perhaps, we are only now beginning to truly and duly value.

No doubt many of us will feel that the "Ambleside Sunday" is a thing not to be foregone, and shall therefore make arrangements to arrive on the 18th. One of the present Juniors has most kindly consented to act as "Lodgings Committee Member," and to her at Scale Howe all communications as to rooms required, &c., should be addressed. She has already kindly ascertained from Mrs. Gibson that she could take in eighteen students, for whom her terms would be 25s. a week each for board and lodging.

All intimations of a desire to be present should reach either the Editor or the Secretary *not later than February 15th, 1903*, and applications for lodgings should be addressed to Miss Wise at Scale Howe by the same date. All suggestions as to papers, lessons, or subjects for discussion should be sent to one of the committee members—

Miss Parish, Scale Howe,
Miss Allen, 55, Lower Belgrave Street, London,
Miss Pennethorne, Sunnyside, Rawtenstall,

before the same date, but they would be glad to receive them as soon as possible.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME.

MONDAY.

OPENING ADDRESS.

This, it is hoped, will be given by a friend whom we all admire and respect, and who has always shown great interest in our work.

PAPER I. Our own Reading and the use of a Reading Club.

PAPER II. The Advantages and Disadvantages of the P.R.S.

CRITICISM LESSON.

DISCUSSION. The teaching of Modern Languages.

TUESDAY.

BRUSH PAINTING.

Miss Baird, who has had great opportunities of studying the subject, has kindly consented to read a paper on this subject.

PAPER II. The Art of Living in other People's Houses.

PAPER III. The Preparation of Boys for School.

CRITICISM LESSON.

Miss Drury has kindly promised to give one of these.

DISCUSSION. On the Programmes.

WEDNESDAY.

PAPER I. On Collections, Moth Rearing, &c.

PAPER II. The Teaching of Literature and the love of it.

PAPER III. Our Possibilities of Expansion.

CRITICISM LESSON.

DISCUSSION. How far can the Governess be the Friend?

Offers to take criticism lessons or speak on these subjects will be gratefully received.

I hope we shall all realize what a great debt we owe to Miss Mason, not only for the past inestimable benefits we have all reaped from her influence, but by giving to us this opportunity of bringing about a loyal and thankful re-union of workers, and for enabling them once more to realize that where they have succeeded it has been in following the great ideals set before them. And for those of us who may feel the despondency of failure there will be that quickening of hope which springs from the recognition of our own weakness as the means and the eternal strength of the end ever in view.

NORFOLK NOTES.

Autumn is fast approaching, in the garden the limes are getting bare and draggled, and birds are beginning to look out for crumbs. Outside it is getting to be an event of note to find a new flower. In the woods the various fungi are to be seen, and we anticipate making a list of those to be found round our village. We rejoice in a botanist of no small renown—to wit, the local chemist. He specialises in ferns, mosses, and microscopic fungi. Now that we have lost Mr. Geldart we go to him with all our new flowers. The death of Mr. Geldart is keenly felt by all East Anglian naturalists as well as book-lovers, and it will be very long before he is replaced.

The evenings are drawing in now, and with the stormy nights begin again the wanderings of "Old Shuck," the headless ghost hound of Norfolk. Old fishermen are afraid to walk the lanes at night for fear of meeting him. His bay is heard whenever the sea runs high. In the village we have a tiny lane with high hedges, like a Devonshire drang, leading to a quarry. This lane goes by the name of Mad Dog's Pass—perhaps Old Shuck has been seen there by some doomed-to-die-within-a-year fisherman. There is a belief current here that when a man dies his "spook" walks the lanes at night and wails at passers-by, and in one house in our village "ole man Nash" disturbs his family with his groans.

The roads are still trembling with the boom-and-smash-up motor-cars, and you meet them in the narrowest lanes.

One of our favourite drives is to S—l—b—g, about three miles from here, where the road divides a large estate consisting of extensive woods, stretches of heather and gorse, and two large ponds or small lakes. One lake is close to the road, and about a third of it is covered with reeds—not that beautiful pinkish reed-grass beloved by Students on the lakes, but the large brown dusky plumes of a larger reed, grown here, I think, as cover for the numerous water-birds. Here amongst the swampy ground we have found monks-hood, marsh valerian—greater and lesser, hairy mint, purple